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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 24 May 1993 from the Charge d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a memorandum on the violation of human rights in the Serb community of Gorski Kotar in the Republic of Croatia, deposited with the State Commission for War Crimes (see annex).**

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 115 (c) of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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* A/48/50.

** The annex is being circulated in the original language of submission only.

ANNEX
MEMORANDUM

ON THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SERB COMMUNITY OF GORSKI KOTAR IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

We recall the facts presented in the Memorandum of March 12, 1992, namely that in the mountainous part of Gorski Kotar stretching from Mount Velika Kapela to the Kupa River, west of the Ogulin-Brinje-Senje line, there are 6000 Serbs in 175 settlements. The Serbs settled in these parts in the 16th century and this was the westernmost part of the military border (Krajina) between the Ottoman and the Austro-Hungarian Empires. In spite of being surrounded by Croat inhabitants, the Serb community has preserved its national identity to this day.

The cultural and religious centre of this region is Gomirje with its orthodox monastery built in 1602 known for its icons from the school of Simeon Baltić from the 17th century. This temple includes among its treasures the first Orthodox Bible printed in the Monastery of Saint Basil in Ostrog in the 15th century. The entire land of this region was purchased from the Austrian crown in 1525. The document on autonomy known as the Charter of Leopold I is kept in the Vienna Archives.

The security of the Serb population in Croatia at the time of the outbreak of hostilities, on Easter day, May 2, 1991, was based on the presence of a garrison of the Yugoslav People's Army in what was then the Socialist Republic of Croatia (zone under the control of the Rijeka Corps). However, when the Rijeka Corps was evacuated within the framework of the redeployment of the JNA to other parts of the then Yugoslavia, the status of the Serb population of Gorski Kotar was reduced to that of a minority without any protection in the Republic of Croatia.

The Serbs of Gorski Kotar living in the immediate vicinity of the war-afflicted regions did not participate in the conflicts despite the constant pressure and threat of reprisals of Croatian authorities and the encirclement of armed forces stationed in Ogulin, Otočac, Vrbovsko and Delnice (communal centres of this region). Devoted to peace and democracy, the Serbs initiated talks with the local Croatian authorities and early in August 1991 reached an oral agreement on the preservation of the status quo until a global political settlement for the former Yugoslavia is found. On the basis of that agreement, the Croatian authorities pledged not to set up new police outposts in this region, not to deploy Croatian armed forces there, and not to mobilize the Serbs of Gorski Kotar to the Croatian Army. In fact, the institutions of the Croatian state in Gorski Kotar have not been functioning to this day, except in Jasenka where 1000 Croatian refugees have been accommodated since August 1992. The Serbs of this region ,at the cost of immense difficulties managed

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to organize the supply of food for the population for a whole year (from end 1991 to end 1992). Out of fear of persecution children have not been going to school.

However, contrary to the oral agreement reached, the Croatian local authorities on September 24, 1991 rased to the ground five villages in the south-eastern border region between Gorski Kotar and the Serbian Krajina. No traces of life remain where the Serbs used to live. In the villages of Brlog, Stare Selo, Tupljaci, Rapajin Do/Rapajin Klanac, and Drenov Klanac, cemetries have been ploughed over, churches and other edifices destroyed, not even the foundations of houses and the orchards were allowed to remain. About 2000 Serbs fled from their burnt villages to neighbouring Krajina. Those who stayed behind were killed and thrown into pits and covered with manure in the manner of barbarians.

From November 19-21, 1991, some 100 people from a number of villages were apprehended and taken to the police station in Ogulin, beaten and interrogated about alleged preparations for rebellion. Ten of them were killed, while the other ninety are missing.

A campaign of destruction of fifty Serb houses in Ogulin started three months ago, was completed in December 1991. At about the same time 39 Serb families from Donje Dubrave and 14 from Gornje Dubrave fled for their life to Serbian Krajina. The end of 1991 and the beginning of 1992 saw a renewal of a campaign of mistreatment, intimidation, reprisals, restriction of the freedom of movement, dismissals, etc., of Serbs all this in the aim of making the life of Serbs insufferable.

In January 1992, the Croatian authorities orally threatened the Serbs saying they would mobilize all men between 16 and 60 years of age for the Croatian Military Forces. This was a false alarm which was not carried out probably because of the belief that the Serbs were armed. However, after the signing of the 15th cease-fire under the auspices of the UN, on January 3, 1992, and with the initiation of the UN peace operation in the former Yugoslavia (the Vance Peace Plan) as well as the international recognition of the Republic of Croatia, the position of the Serb population in Gorski Kotar deteriorated rapidly. The Serbs found that they were surrounded by military formations and in a complete economic, transport and information blockade. Gorski Kotar- a region where there were no conflicts - remained outside the mandate of the UN and was left to the mercy of the local Croatian authorities stationed in Ogulin and Vrbovsko. The local commanders of the Croatian forces set an ultimatum demanding that the Serbs hand in their weapons and report for service in the Croatian Army by March 20, 1992. It was then that the attention of the international community was drawn to the difficulties and the persecution of the Serbs.

II

The Croatian authorities, even after the dispatch of the Memorandum on the Dramatic Situation of the Serb Population in the Region of Gorski Kotar, and the appeal to the UNO and other international organizations for assistance, continued to violate the human rights and freedoms of the Serb people of this region. Testifying to this is the following:

On April 1, 1992 a field officer of the International Committee of the Red Cross, together with the representatives of the Red Cross of Croatia, Mr. Bosanac and of the communal authorities of Ogulin insisted with representatives of the Serb local communities that displaced persons of Croatian nationality be accommodated in the Gorski Kotar region. The Serbs rejected this proposal invoking UN SC resolution 752 under which attempts at changing the ethnic structure are prohibited. However, the Serbian people of this region had already taken in 2,000 urban Serbs from Zagreb, Karlovac and Rijeka, who had been fired from work just for being Serbs. They had never been registered as refugees. The Serbs also expressed readiness to, instead of Croats, take in more Serb refugees from Croatia.

On April 3, 1992, Milan Brezak, Assistant Minister of the Interior of Croatia, held a meeting with representatives of the local communities, demanding from the Serbs to pledge allegiance to the Republic of Croatia. This was not accepted because it was common knowledge that whenever Serbs in Croatia pledged such allegiance that marked the opening of the hunting season against them.

On April 15, 1992 three villagers were arrested in the Gornji Brinjski region and were subjected to pressures so as to betray their neighbours who ostensibly possessed arms.

On April 25, 1992 a group consisting of thirty members of the Croatian Defense Forces (HOS) and about 200 members of the Croatian Guard mined and blew up a monument in Gornje Dubrave erected in honour of veterans fallen in the II World War.

On May 2, 1992 another such monument was demolished in Ogulin.

On May 4, 1992 a field officer of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), on the basis of an appeal by the representatives of Serbs from Gorski Kotar in Belgrade visited this area. A report on this has not been received despite numerous reminders. Contacts with the Belgrade Office of the International Committee of the Red Cross have been discontinued.

On May 5, 1992 Serb representatives in Jasenak were given an ultimatum from Ogulin to accept Croatian refugees by May 15, 1992. In this context a protest was lodged with the UNHCR Office in Belgrade on the basis of UN SC resolution 752.

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On May 21, 1992, the Minister for Refugees of Croatia arrived in Jasenak and stated that the refugees would move into the recreation center there by May 26, 1992.

On May 26, 1992 Mr.Josip Boljkovac, Minister in the Government of the Republuc of Croatia and Commander of Croatian Forces for Istria and Gorski Kotar came to Drežnica and asked for a list of Serb men capable of military service aged from 16 to 60. After complaints lodged with the civilian department of UNPROFOR call-ups were suspended.

On May 28, 1992 representatives of the Vrbovsko and Ogulin authorities demanded that all inscriptions in the Cyrillic script be replaced by ones in Latin script. The Serbian population adamantly refused.

On May 28/29, 1992 a bus carrying displaced persons arrived in Jasenak with 30 refugees and 5 policemen on it. This was in fact an attempt at discrediting the Serbian community as a TV crew from Zagreb was on the spot awaiting their arrival to film what they expected to turn into an incident. However, the Serbs took them in and provided them with accommodation, but these displaced persons dispersed every which way soon thereafter.

On May 30, 1992 the Serbs in Gomirje and Moravice burned Croatian flags hoisted on railway stations because the showing of the Serbian national flag is not permitted.

On June 8, 1992 the male population of Brestovac and Vitunja was called up for military service. These calls were suspended also thanks to informal talks with UNPROFOR representatives.

On June 26, 1992 call-ups for military service were again sent to all villages; this time it was the representative of EC military observers who intervened to prevent the verbal agreement on the preservation of the status quo from 1991 from being breached.

On July 6, 1992 at Vrbovsko an agreement was signed on the surrender of arms by Serbs. It was signed by representatives of Serbs from Gorski Kotar and the Croatian Police Station in Karlovac in the presence of representatives of the UNHCR and of the EC/ Zagreb. The Serbs handed over their arms by July 15, 1992, whereas 20,000 Croatian troops remained along the edges of the Gorski Kotar enclave. The Croatian side undertook to set up a police station manned by Serbs from this region. The UNHCR and the EC military observers did not undertake to monitor this agreement. Only a month later, after numerous interventions by representatives of Serbs from Gorski Kotar in Belgrade, European Community and UNHCR representatives started policing the area, failing, however, to establish contact with the Serbs living there, despite written and verbal protests lodged.

On July 15, 1992 the names of two Serb villages - Gornje Dubrave and Donje Dubrave were changed to Gornji Tounj and Donji Tounj respectively, (a Croatian settlement) by changing inscriptions on the railway stations and village entrances, and using Latin instead of Cyrillic script. In these two villages there are 500 and 300 elderly Serbs, respectively. However, in November 1991 14 families from the first village and 39 from the second one had moved to Slunj in the Serbian Krajina.

On August 2, 1992 parliamentary and presidential elections were held in Croatia at which about 47% of the inhabitants of Gorski Kotar also turned out. International observers from the "Helsinki Watch" had also been invited, but failed to show up, probably due to short notice. Serbs had no candidates for the Croatian Assembly and also refused a subsequent invitation to nominate them. According to articles published in the Zagreb press at the time, there were only 3,500 Serbs in Gorski Kotar rather than over 6,000.

On August 5, 1992, about 1,000 refugees of Croatian nationality (100 adults and 900 children) from the Slavonski Brod area were brought to the winter sports center in Jasenak under the aegis of the UNHCR Zagreb.

During the month of August the villages Škalići and Vodoteč (the Gornji Brinjski Region) were completely evacuated (a total of around 200 Serbs), after repeated provocations by members of the police and of the HOS from Brinje.

On August 27, 1992, on behalf of the Serbs from Gorski Kotar, a protest was lodged with the Regional EC Center in Belgrade addressed to their Zagreb Office, because EC observers and UNHCR representatives only passed through this area in cars accompanied by Croatian officials, and never established contact with the Serbs nor inquired about their difficulties. It was pointed out in this connection that the police station set up in Jasenak, contrary to the provisions of the Vrbovsko Agreement, had two Serbian and 15 Croatian policemen, while Jasenak is a purely Serbian village, if 1,000 Croatian refugees there are not taken into account.

On August 29, 1992 in contravention of the promise that no Serbs would be mobilized pending the final resolution of the status of the Gorski Kotar Serbs in the Gorski Kotar enclave, 5 men from Drežnice were called up for service.

In August 1992, the competent authorities did not issue the permits required for the export of sawn-wood, which only confirms the intention which existed of suppressing economic activites of the Serbs who do not wish to leave the place of their birth.

On September 1, 1992 after a one-year pause, children from this region began attending school again, in which according to the Croatian curriculum they were to learn only the

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Latin characters instead of a combination of both the Latin and Cyrillic scripts, and history in which the Serbs are called all sorts of insulting names. The Serbian pupils in elementary schools are taught that they are "small Croatians" (as written in the Croatian primer for the first grade).

On September 5, 1992 the signs at the railway stations in Gomirje and Srpske Moravice, which were written in the Cyrillic script were changed into Latin, while Srpske Moravice have been renamed into Moravice (without the Srpske).

The presidents of the Serbian local communities in this enclave signed a statement to the effect that they do not recognize as their representatives "Tudjman's private Serbs" from the Community of Serbs in Croatia who are taking part in the Group for Minorities of the Geneva Conference on Yugoslavia and who have announced their intention of establishing a Croatian Orthodox church in Zagreb.The designated members of the Community of Serbs in Croatia include Milan Djukić, the appointed Vice-President of the Croatian Assembly and Milorad Pupovac from the Serbian Forum, as well as Boro Aksentijević from the Community of Serbs in Croatia from Rijeka.This statement was sent to the President of Croatia Tudjman, UNPROFOR, the EEC, and the UNCHR Office in Zagreb.

Around October 20, 1992 the Draft Law on the Territorial Organization of Croatia was issued.It is proposed in the draft Law that the Serbian enclave in Gorski Kotar be included in the Riječka Županija and that the Serbian local communities be divided into 5 Croatian communes: to annex Drežnice to the commune of Josip Dol; Jasenak - to the commune of Ogulin; Gomirje and Srpske Moravice - to the commune of Vrbovsko; Ponikve and Dubrave - to the commune to Tounj, meaning that in all of these 5 communes the Serbian population would be in the minority. This is a continuation of the old tested practice of breaking up the Serbian national substance, since as things now stand Drežnica, Jasenak and Dubrave are in the commune of Ogulin, where Serbs make up 55% of the total population, while Gomirje and Srpske Moravice are in the commune of Vrbovsko, where Serbs make up 65% of the population.

There are no international observers in the Serbian enclave in Gorski Kotar,since there were no conflicts in that region.The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has representatives only in Jasenak, where there is a police department as well and the members of which, contrary to the Agreement, are primarily of Croatian nationality, ruling out any possibility of complaint. If anyone from among the Serbs complains, he is as a rule arrested at once, maltreated and fired.

Not one Serb from this enclave has a job in state-owned firms (Moravice - Railway workshop for the repair of railroad cars and the Factory of insulation material). The Serbs receive old-age pensions but not military service or disability pensions.

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The inhabitants of the enclave suspect that when a Serb is hospitalized in the Ogulin Hospital he does not come back alive, primarily due to the fact that this autumn out of twenty patients that were in the hospital no one came back, making them avoid hospital treatment.

In the course of October 300 Croats settled in Jasenak after a group of about 1,000 Croatian children had previously left the village.

At around 1 November 1992, sixteen year old boys (about twenty of them) from the villages of Jasenak, Srpske Moravice, Gomirje and Drežnica received pre-draft calls with a one-month deadline to report and to which only two boys responded.

The Vice-President of the Croatian Assembly, Milan Djukić, known in the Croatian press as "Tudjman's private Serb", made rounds of the Serbian villages in Gorski Kotar once a week in October and November, soliciting for loyality by promising credits to people in private business in restaurants and private homes if they join the party of the Community of Serbs from Istria, Rijeka, Hrvatsko primorje and Gorski Kotar, bribing and trying to find two Serbian deputies for the Croatian Assembly. On that occasion he did not mention the special status guaranteed to minorities by the Croatian Constitution. To date no one has responded to his request.

In the beginning of November 1992, Milan Djukić opened a school in Ponikva for seven pupils of Serbian nationality, where they were to have supplementary tuition in Serbian, i.e., two classes per week: one in the Serbian language and the other in history. When opening the school he stated that the Croatiaon authorities observed the national rights of minorities along European democratic principles. The school was opened in the old school building which has been deserted for the last twenty years, since children attended the school in Ogulin. In Ponikva there are about 70 mostly older people, since all the younger ones were forced to move out.

The visit of the delegation of the European Parliament to the elementary school in Vrbovsko, at the beginning of November 1992 was covered by a BBC television team. The Serbian children from Gomirje, attending that school had to state under pressure that they were Croats. Later one thirteen-year old girl attempted suicide because on her way home some of her friends teased her for having given such a statement.

Sometime between December 15-22, 1992 reinforcements in personnel and heavy tanks were sent into Ogulin, one of the three communal centres in the Serbian enclave in Gorski Kotar.

A Franciscan representative visited the head of the Serbian Orthodox monastery in Gomirje on 4. December 1992 for negotiations about the sale of this westernmost Orthodox institution, built in 1602.

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On December 28,1992 young men from a number of Serbian villages were drafted, contrary to the oral agreement with the local Croatian authorities that they would not mobilise Serbs until the final resolution of the crisis in former Yugoslavia.

The small number of Serbs who are still employed in Vrbovsko are maltreated in various ways with a view to implementing ethnic cleansing in this town.

The last group of refugees left Jasenak on 24, December 1992.

From January 1993 to date, the Serbian enclave in Gorski Kotar has been surrounded by Croatian Army forces which have deployed heavy artillery and troops on the roads leading to Serbian villages, parallel with the Croatian war operations in the Republic of Srpska Krajina. We wish to emphasize that the Serbs in Gorski Kotar are not armed, and that they are surrounded by about 20 brigades of Croatian troops. Likewise, according to the Serbian population in Gorski Kotar the Croatian authorities, army and police forces are exercising the most severe forms of discrimination against the Serbs and are gravely violating their fundamental human rights and civil freedoms.

On 27 January the Serbian population was prohibited and prevented, on pain of military attack and destruction of the monastery, from celebrating the greatest Serbian religious holiday St. Sava's Day which has been traditionally celebrated each year in the Monastery Gomirje (on the territory of the Serbian enclave in Gorski Kotar), and the representatives of UNPROFOR saw for themselves that the Serbian people were brutally prevented from celebrating their feast, provoking the deep and justified revolt of the Serbs.

Owing to the flagrant violation of the fundamental principles on the respect of human rights, the Representative Office of the Serbs from Gorski Kotar addressed an appeal on 26 January, 1993 to the Chairman of the UN Security Council, UN General Assembly and UNPROFOR high officials on the soil of former Yugoslavia to intervene with the Croatian authorities and request the observation of the provisions of international law and the withdrawal of military and police forces from the border region of Gorski Kotar.

On 9 February and 12 March draft calls were sent to the Serbs of Gorski Kotar, who collectively refused to accept them on the basis of the oral agreement reached in 1990 with the local Croatian authorities that they would not take part in a fratricidal war. A number of Serbs from Ogulin and Vrbovsko were mobilized by force into the Croatian army. Some of them took refuge in Serbian villages in Gorski Kotar.

The latest call for the mobilisation of Serbs from Gorski Kotar in all eight local communities (Srpske Moravice, Gomirje, Potok Musulinski with Vitanja and Brestovac, Jasenak,

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Drežnica, Gornji Kraj, Ponikve , Donja Dubrava and Gornja Dubrava) and their disposition to the front-line to fight against their Serbian brothers and against the Republic of Serbian Krajina may be the cause of an armed rebellion and conflict, since the Serbs from this area absolutely refuse to be mobilised. In other words,by mobilising the Serbs the Croatian authorities intend to man their units, the same units that have carried out the aggression against the Republic of Serbian Krajina. Our Representative Office informed the international community of this problem and sent an appeal for help on January 20, 1993.

In the vicinity of Brinje the Croatian troops are plundering Serbian villages and taking away cattle and property.

The Serbs that leave the enclave in order to go to a hospital or into neighbouring Croatian towns are maltreated, beaten and even arrested and interrogated.

Despite repeated appeals addressed to the UNPRFOR Headquarters in Zagreb, the Regional EEC centre and UNCHR to help the Serbian enclave in Gorski Kotar, a peaceful community which is exerting efforts to resolve its status through democratic means and political agreement, their position has not been improved.

If international factors do not exert pressure on the Croatian authorities to withdraw their forces from the border areas of the Serbian enclave in Gorski Kotar, a conflict may arise with tragic consequences for the Serbian people in this region.

Boutros Ghali, Cyrus Vance and Cedric Thornberry have been informed about the existing situation in Gorski Kotar.

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The presented facts confirm that, regardless of the guarantees given and the peaceful policy pursued by the Serbs in Gorski Kotar, the status of this Serbian community has not in essence been improved. The human rights and freedoms of the Serbian people in this area, including their religious freedoms, are being gravely violated. There is not even the slightest indication of a solution to the overall political status of the Serbian people in the Republic of Croatia.

The latest agression of the Republic of Croatia on the territory under the protection of the United Nations, and especially in the Northern Dalmatian and Lika region (Sector South) has profoundly upset the Serbian population in Gorski Kotar, the more so considering that the United Nations and international community have not provided for the physical protection of the Serbs in this area, namely for their inclusion into the so-called pink zones under UN protection.

We wish once again to impress upon the United Nations, international organizations, institutions and the world

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public, that the latest aggression of the Republic of Croatia in wanton contravention of the UN decisions on the protection of the Serbian people, which has been condemned by the Security Council, may well lead to genocide of the entire defenceless Serbian community in the Gorski Kotar region.

As by virtue of the Agreement with the Croatian authorities on the handing over of arms signed in Vrbovsko on 6 July 1992 in the presence of and with the guarantees of the representatives of the European Community and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the Serbian people of Gorski Kotar have remained virtually unprotected, we request the United Nations to send an adequate number of peace forces to this region. In this dramatic situation this is the only effective guarantee that can prevent the physical extinction of the entire Serbian community in Gorski Kotar.

The Serbian people of Gorski Kotar request the United Nations to demand from the Croatian authorities to observe the principles stipulated in their Constitution adopted in December 1991, guaranteeing fundamental human rights and freedoms to the Serbian people, and, accordingly, to provide for its special status and to ensure and enable international arbitration for the purpose of the protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms, to demilitarise the areas around Gorski Kotar, enable the economic recovery of this region and establish traffic, PTT and other communications with this region; they request the UN to provide for their physical protection by sending adequate peace forces, and to deploy regular observers as well.

At the Meeting held in Vrbovsko on 6 July 1992, in the presence of the representatives of the United Nations High Commission for refugees, the authorized representatives of the Drežnica, Gomirje, Jasenak and Srpske Moravice Local Communities on the one hand, and the Karlovac Police Department on the other, have concluded the following:

A G R E E M E N T

I

The Contracting Parties have noted that, prior to the outbreak of the armed conflict in the territory of the Republic of Croatia, the armed forces of the former SFRY have provided the Jasenak, Drežnica, Gomirje and Srpske Moravice Local Communities with a certain quantity of weapons for the purpose of self protection. However, the specified Local Communities have in the meantime neither used the available weapons nor have they threatened the security of the nationals or the property of the Republic of Croatia.

During the armed conflict in the Republic of Croatia, the local communities of Jasenak, Drežnica, Gomirje and Srpske Moravice advocated a political solution to open and controversial issues, recognized the authority of the Republic of Croatia, and were met with the understanding of the local authorities of the Communes of Vrbovsko and Ogulin, the Police Department of Karlovac and the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

II

The Contracting Parties have agreed that the Local Communities of Jasenak, Drežnica, Gomirje and Srpske Moravice shall store the weapons received from the former SFRY armed forced in the depots of the Vrbovsko Police Station and its Unit in Jasenak.

The representatives of the Local Communities have agreed to call on the population of their Local Communites to surrender the weapons obtained from the army to the police authorities, regardless of how they had been procured.

The surrendering of the weapons referred to in paragraph 1, Item I, shall be carried out within five days from the date of the signing of this Agreement.

III

The Local Communities and the Karlovac Police Department are in agreement with the setting up of reserve police units of the below listed size:

Jasenak	30
Drežnica	40
Gomirje	30
Srpske Moravice	30

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IV

The Local Communities of Jasenak, Drežnica, Gomirje and Srpske Moravice support the decision of the Ministry of the Interior to set up a Police Unit in Jasenak.

The Karlovac Police Department has committed itself to ensuring that the composition of the Police Unit in Jasenak proportionately reflect the national structure of the respective Local Communities.

V

The Jasenak, Drežnica, Gomirje and Srpske Moravice Local Communities take upon themselves to dismantle all fortifications within 15 days from the date of the coming into force of this Agreement.

VI

The Karlovac Police Department takes upon itself not to take measures within its competences against those citizens who surrender the above weapons to the respective police stations in keeping with this Agreement.

VII

This Agreement shall come into force and be implemented from the date of its signing.

Done in Vrbovsko, 06/07/1992

President of the Local Community of Jasenak

President of the Local Community of Brežnica

President of the Local Community of Gomirje

President of the Local Community o Srpske Moravice

Representative of the UN High Commission for Refugees

Head of the Karlovac Police Department

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I, Ignjatije Zrnić, born in Partizanska Drežnica, Commune of Ogulin, on 17 August 1960, residing at Josipdol BB, hereby give the following:

S T A T E M E N T

On 18 November I was at work. A patrol of the Ministry of the Interior came to pick me up and arrested me without any reason or warrant. I was taken to the Ogulin police station. Upon arriving there, I encountered several people who had already been arrested earlier that day. Arrests went on until the evening hours and a total of 23 persons were taken in, all of whom were of Serbian nationality. Interrogations started the same evening. The arrested were interrogated one at a time by six to eight persons. They already knew the answers to the questions asked. I was interrogated by a man who worked with me in the Čumarija enterprise at Josipdol, so there was no way I could either fail to disclose or conceal anything. Interrogation was accompanied by beating. My interrogation lasted one hour and ten minutes. My legs and arms were beaten up by nightstick and they pushed my head into a bucket full of water. When I asked why had I been taken in, the answer was that I was accused of having had participated in the armed rebellion against the Republic of Croatia. Simultaneously with my arrest, my abode were searched, but no compromisng material or weapons were found.

While we were in detention, three persons were killed and one was inflicted three wounds. There were usually two guards on watch. On 19 November in the afternoon, those two guards were joined by another armed person who, after spending there some 15 minutes, started shooting at us from his machine gun. The guards succeeded in stopping and disarming him. When the shooting ceased we realized that three men had been killed (Dušan Plećaš, Božo Mandić and Nikola Papić) and that the forth one (Mićo Pešut) had been seriously wounded. After that incident they moved us to another room where we spent the night. The next afternoon, about 14.00 hours we were released without a word of explanation, but with a warning that we should better watch what we do and how we live.

The day after those events had taken place, I left my place of residence, and some 20 days later I learned from my parents that my house had been blown up by a mine and damaged.

signed Ignjatije Zrnić

Belgrade, 21 April 1992

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S T A T E M E N T

Statement given in Sombor by Gojko Šegan from Josip Dol on 21 April 1992, at 17.00 hours

On 17 November 1991, at 07.20 hours in the morning some ten men (of the so called "Josip Turković's intervention unit") arrived to my house in an Ogulin Police van and started the search. They did not show me any search warrant. The search was carried out without incidents. Since in my home they did not find anything they were after (weapons, documents, propaganda material, etc.), they took me in their van to my parents' place and searched it too. The result was the same. Then they took me to my old flat and searched it as well. They found nothing. We then went to my place of work, and again a search followed, but again with the same result. All that happened between 7.20 and 1.00 hours in the morning in Josip Dol. I was then taken to the Ogulin police station with the explanation that I had to give a kind of a statement.

After having waited in the police station for 2-3 hours to be interrogated, I was taken to an elderly investigator (allegedly from Zagreb) dressed in civilian clothes. I was requested to give personal data and in a conversation I was asked about my connections with the Serba from Plaški. That went on for about half an hour. The first conversation ended with a threat that, since I don't want to do it peacefully, I shall "be made to reveal my connections otherwise". I was then entrusted to a guard who took me to a meeting room where I spent 1-2 hours. While I was there the guard was scaring me all the time by clicking his gun and pointing it at my head. Suddenly he went out, and two men entered the room (one of them a tall HOS -Croatian Defense Forces - member, wearing a red beret and the other a shorter man in civilian clothes). They started interrogating me and then the HOS member kicked me in the head with his boot and was immediately joined with the civilian. The beating went on for a short time. My head was bleeding as I was quite beaten up. Before going out of the room, they left me some paper and a pencil and ordered me "to write down everything I knew". Half an hour later the same two men re-entered the room and when they realized that I had written nothing on the sheet of paper they left me, they trew me on the ground and went on kicking me (this time they did not kick me in the head). It lasted more or less the same as the first round. They left but came back within 2-3 minutes with a man by the name of Djuro Prodanović, who was visibly beaten up. They left him in the room and went out. The guard stayed with us. About half an hour later the same two men came back and the "civilian" took Djuro away, while the HOS member stayed with me. This time he did not beat me, but rather demanded that I confess everything. As I remained silent for a couple of minutes, he stood up, went out but came back very soon with bread and canned meat and gave them to me. After some ten minutes he re-appeared, noted that I had eaten very little, smiled and left. I never saw him again.

/...

Soon, they brough Djuro back. He told me that he was also given some food. Later on we were both taken to a prison cell on the ground floor, where it was already completely dark. Željko Tomić from Drežnica, who was badly beaten up, was lying in the cell. During the night he told us that they "took turns" in beating him, forced him to sing Ustashi songs and to declare himself as a "Chetnik". We fell asleep just before dawn and woke up on 18 November 1991 at about 8 o'clock in the morning. At about 11 o'clock Djuro and I were released from the cell and told that we were going home and we were taken to the (meeting) room upstairs where we fond about ten Serbs from Josip Dol who had been arrested that morning: 1. Plećaš (first name maybe Dušan), 2. Živko (nick-named Pezija), 4. Božo Mandić, 4. Bane (worker at the sowing mill), 5. Milan Boca (called Ćiro), 6. Milan Jančić (known as Brzi - Speedy), 7. Pero (nick-named Cimeša), waiter - used to work at the sowing mill, 8. Zrnić (nick-named Braco), 9. Mićo Popović - a retired traffic policeman, 10. Mišo Pešut, 11. Bogdan Mišljenović from Oštarija. During the afternoon, one of the guards collected money from us and bought us some sandwitches and cigarettes. That was all we ate that day. In the evening we were taken to the cafeteria in the basement where all of us were kept together until 20.00 hours. Two guards were with us at all times.

At 20.00 hours two "Turković's special policemen" came and took one among us probably to the meeting room upstairs, with his hands handcuffed on his back. We heard the man screaming upstairs and the yelling of the policemen. When he was brought back (I cannot remember who was the first one to be taken upstairs for beating), they took the next one. They beat each one for an hour by "taking turns" and after bringing one person down they took the next one up. That went on until 04.00 hours in the morning on 19 November 1991. The majority of those men were severely beaten (they jumped on their chest from the table and did so many other things). All the time we were threatened by different attrocities, and a person named Mujo, called the Sheriff, cocked his gun and pointed it at us and threatened that he would kill us all. That night it was not "my turn for beating", because Mujo, the Sheriff, was "saving me for the end". They left us to rest from 04.00 to 07.00 hours.

At about 7,30 o'clock, two men wearing old police uniforms came in. They took our personal data and left. We never saw them again. Around noon one of Turković's special policemen asked me and Djuro to tell him who the main Chetnik in Josip Dol was and the names of all SDS (Serbian Democratic Party) members. We told him the names of those whom we knew for sure that had fled and the name of a deceased. They checked the information we had given them and came back furious telling us that next time we shall give them the names of the right people.

In the course of the afternoon (after 14.00 o'clock) within a 2-3 hours period they brought in the following people: 1. Rade Prodanović, 2. Pero Popović, 3. Mile Kukić (all from Josip Dol). I think that it was later that same day that they brought in the following: 1. Nikola Papić, from Ogulin, 2. Djuro (Director of the Komunalac enterprise of Ogulin), 3. Gojko - pensioner from Josip

/...

Dol, former army officer in Karlovac, 4. Čedo (nick-named Perkankin) - baker together with Hamdija "the Bosnian" from Josip Dol, Aleksa Jančić and his brother were also brought in (I cannot remember when), but they were released the same day at the intervention of the policeman Marjan Kolić.

At about 18.45 o'clock Djuro and I were sitting at one of the tables, while across from us were the "special policemen" Marjan Klašanin and another one from Modruša. At about 19.00 o'clock, in addition to the outside guard, a member of the ZNG (Croatian National Guard) Stipica Puškarić (I believe him to be from Prapuče), walked in armed with a machine gun (I think it was black). He stood in the middle of the room without saying a word, while special police member Klišanin and his colleague went up to him and led him out of the cafeteria telling him that he shouldn't be there. The two men came back without him and sat down at our table again. A minute or two later, Puškarić came back in, walked straight to our table and sat down. I had the impression that he was drunk. He started a conversation about the war with the special police members and was telling about his experinces (probably in Osijek). Then special police members told him that he should take a rest and have some sleep, because the shift was over. He stood up quietly, started towards the door, but suddently turned around, cocked his gun and yelled: "f... your Chetnik mother, I am gonna kill you all", and started shooting at us (I believe that he was firing individual shots). The members of the special police immediatly got up and started. They pushed his gun so that it pointed towads the floor. He, nevertheless continued shooting until special police member, Klišanin, struck him in the head with his own gun.

In the commotion we all fell on the floor and Stipica Puškarić was taken out. I rushed to the wonded Papić's aid and realized that Plećaš was already dead, and so was Božo Marendić. I heard that Papić died the following day. I doubt that Puškarić was using bullet shells, since later on in the cloak room we found small cartridges. Policemen Božović called the ambulance which took away Papić as well as Pešut who was wounded in both legs and the left shoulder. After that one by one, we were all taken into the conference room upstairs where we spent the night.

In the morning of 20 November 1991, they got us some sandwitches for the money we had on us At about 13.00 - 14.00 hours I was released. I was unable to obtain any information as to my wife's whereabouts. A policemen whispered an advice to me in passing: "run away." We were told that we would all be set free, and that actually happened.

As far as I know, the Croatian authorities did not investigate this incident. The murderer was later on frequently seen ..... walking freely the streets of Ogulin.

/...

I, Đoko-Đorđe Milanović, born on November 7,1950 in Ogulin, address: 54a and 54 Puškarići, hereby make the following

S T A T E M E N T

My family, namely my wife and two sons and I lived in the local community of Puškarići, in our house, 10 x 9 m, and an inherited house, 5 x 8 m.I was employed in the "Prevoz" Ogulin work organization and my wife is a disabled worker and gets disability pension.

I never had any quarrel with any inhabitant of the Republic of Croatia. On the contrary I had family and godfather ties with that people until the war broke out.When the Croatian Democratic Community (HDZ) assumed power in May 1990 my family was subjected to isolation on the part of our neighbours, exposed to harassment over the phone, to provocations every night with shooting around the house and destruction - shooting at my cousin's house which is cca.200 m from mine.

All this lasted until December 10,1991 when on account of overt threats I had to leave my home and come to Serbia.

Immediately thereafter, on January 19,1992,mines were set to the house for the first time, and then once again in February, and it was razed to the ground by mines on March 7,1992. I have a report and photographs as evidence.

My old house was totally destroyed and burned down in August, so that my only remaining property is a garage 8 x 8 m, of which only the foundations are still standing as far as I know.

/...

All the appliances , furniture and things in the house were destroyed, except some small articles which were saved.

I believe that my family could never again live there, because this is the second time in 50 years that the property of my family has been completely destroyed. The maltreatment and fear experienced by my children must be sufficient warning to me as a parent to find a life for my family where they will never again be maltreated and persecuted solely because of something they had no influence whatsoever on , i.e. because of being of a different nationality than the Croats with whom we used to live.

Belgrade, October 10,1992 sgd. Đorđe Milanović

/...

ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGE
Date----------

Form RŠ-01
R Š 0 1
Form No. 2/7

DAMAGE TO BUILDING

1. Data on facility for which assessment is made

a) Name of enterprise, institution .....
Name and surname of owner Doko Milanović

b) Number in joint register.....
Ordinal number of unit in its framework .....

c) Commune Ogulin City Ogulin
Street and Number Puškarići 54a

d) Activity (branch according to JKD) .....

2. a) Damage inflicted by unknown

b) Time damage was inflicted (place, date and hour) 07.03.1992 at 2.45 a.m.

DATA ON FACILITY

1. LOCATION OF FACILITY
Commune Ogulin 1154
Town Ogulin ...
Local community
Sv.Petar ...

4. NAME OF FACILITY
residential building
(One-story building)

(From nomenclature of facilities, and for privately owned facilities, from instructions for filling in this form)

5. OWNERSHIP OF FACILITY
Socially owned 1

9. DAMAGE TO FACILITY
Damaged 1
Destroyed 2
Looted 3

10. CATEGORY OF DAMAGE TO BUILDING (Copy no.of category for buildings) VI

11. BUILDING CONSTRUCTION
Hard bldg.materials 2
Soft bldg. materials 3

12. FLATS-total
No. of flats ...
Area in m2 ...

No. of households in flats 1

/...

Privately owned 2 No.of persons in flats 4
State owned 3

6. YEAR OF CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITY 1918
7. CONSTRUCTION PERMIT
exists yes
does not exist ...

8. SIZE OF FACILITY
Measurement unit meter
Size 10 x 9 m
(Enter area of damaged part or total size of facility according to instructions for this form)

13. DAMAGED FLATS
No. of flats 2
Area in m2 ...
No.of households ...
No.of persons in flats ...

14. AREA OF BUSINESS SPACE IN M2

15. AMOUNT OF DAMAGE TO FACILITY
in Din. 000 ...
(figure from damage assessment, item 8)

16. INSURANCE WITH INSURANCE COMPANY AGAINST WAR DAMAGE
Insured .....1 Uninsured 5-
- damages claimed ...2
- damages to be claimed ...3
- damages already collected...4

ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGE TO DESTROYED AND DAMAGED FACILITY

1. Size of destroyed facility (item 8 of this form).....
2. Price per measurement unit, in Din.000.....
3. New value of destroyed facility (1x2) in Din.000.....
4. Amount of depreciation (question 50/100) in Din.000 2175
5. Current value of destroyed facility (3-4) in Din.000 5073
6. Costs of repairing damaged facility, in Din.000 (from form RŠ-POM)
7. Value of saved materials in Din.000 (from form RŠ-POM) 262
8. Amount of damage (for destroyed facility 5-7; for damaged facility 6-7) 4911

/...

In Oqulin
Date March 17,1992

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Seal of the Republic of
Croatia
Executive Council
Communal Assembly Ogulin

1..sgd.....
2..sgd.....
3..sgd.....

RŠ 01-POM

Saved:				
1. brick from supporting walls 25%	m3	6,00	1,30	8
2. foundations of the building	%	5	5073	254

Total: 262 000 din.

/...

Ogulin , March 13,1992

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING - ONE- STORY BUILDING
ĐORĐE MILANOVIĆ
OGULIN, Puškarići 54 a

LIST OF DESTROYED THINGS

1. Upper floor - complete bedroom, radio set, rug, chandelier, curtains
2. Childrens' room - hardwood cupboard, two beds, rug, curtains, two armchairs, table and chandelier, two bedside lamps.
3. Living room: wall to wall cupboard, table, six chairs, settee, rug, curtains, deep freeze, black and white TV set
4. Hall: wardrobe, rug, telephone,chandelier and electricity meter.
5. Bathroom: wood-electricity furnace, washer, WC , sink ,etc.
6. Attic: 3 TV antennas, two pairs of skis with equipment, etc.
7. Staircase: tread lined with cherry wood,wooden wall linings, chandelier.
8. Ground floor: living room and kitchen: hardwood cupboard, 4 m. long, table and six chairs, couch, two desks, black and white TV set and table, two chandeliers, rug, two curtains. Kitchen: three cupboards and sink, three cupboards with glass doors and one stove fuelled by wood, one electric stove, furnace 30,000 calories, a large refrigerator "Obodin".A complete central heating system with appurtenances and equipment, a large hot water boiler. WC, sink and hanger.
9. Entrance hall: bench, hanger, cupboard for shoes,chandelier and rug.
10. Room on ground floor: 20 m3 of wood, 1 plastic barrel 200 liters for cabbage, one wooden barrel, one fireplace furnace, 1 electric furnace, various materials (text illegible ... and various tools. Stores for the winter - potatoes, cabbage,etc.

/...

Other damage: RŠ 03-POM

- furniture for 2 rooms -	pcs	2	125 000	250 000
- fuel wood	m2	20	1 000	20 000
- plastic barrel, 200 l	pcs	1	3 000	3 000
- wooden barrel,	pcs	1	5 000	5 000
- stores for the winter	- lump sum			20 000
- electric furnace	pcs	1	5 000	5 000
- various tools	- lump sum			15 000
			Total:	328 000 din.

Note: all prices in this report established in September 1991.

Seal Signature

/...

REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
POLICE HEADQUARTERS, KARLOVAC
POLICE STATION, VRBOVSKO
No. 511-05-60/2-1-UPI# 48 92
Vrbovsko, 9th July 1992

With reference to the ex officio deletion of the permanent residence of Carević Ljubica, subject to Article 13 para 3 of the Law on Registration of the Domicile and Permanent Residence of Citizens ("People's Bulletin", No. 53/91.), Article 141 of the Law on General Administrative Procedure ("Official Gazette" No. 47/86) and Article 1 of the Law on the Application of the Law on General Administrative Procedure in the Republic of Croatia ("People's Bulletin," No. 53/91), the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Police Headquarters Karlovac, Police Station Vrbovsko, hereby brings the following

D E C I S I O N

1. on the DELETION of CAREVIĆ Ljubica, born on March 15th 1954, from the register of permanent residents of Vrbovsko, Srpske Moravice, Dokmanovići 1c.

2. on the ANNULMENT of identity card, Registration No. 11133, issued by the Police Station of Vrbovsko.

3. Appeal shall not stay enforcement.

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R a t i o n a l e

Carević Ljubica, father's name Vučinić Georgije, born on March 15 1954, in Rijeka, registered in Vrbovsko as her permanent place of residence since birth, at the address : Srpske Moravice, Dokmanovići 1c.

Inspection of the Register of Residents, showed that the above-mentioned was still registered at the said address.

In connection with Article 12, para 3 of the Law on the Domicile and Permanent Residence of Citizens, the Police Headquarters Karlovac, Police Station Vrbovsko, initiated an official procedure for establishing the authenticity of residence data at the above address.

Inspection in the field established that Carević Ljubica does not reside in Srpske Moravice, Dokmanovići 1c, which she left for Serbia - Belgrade, in September 1991.

Since Article 13, para 3 of the Law on the Domicile and Permanent Residence of Citizens and Article 10 of the Law on Identification Card ("People's Bulletin", No. 53/91), stipulate that residence data must be accurate and true, and as the term "residence" is understood to mean the place where one permanently resides, the aforesaid shows that Carević Ljubica does not permanently reside at Srpske Moravice, Dokmanovići 1c, warranting the above decision.

Pursuant to Article 231. of the Law on General Administrative Procedure ("Official Gazette No. 47/86) and Article 1 on the Application of the Law on General Administrative Procedure in the Republic of Croatia ("People's Bulletin", No. 53/91), appeal shall not stay enforcement of the said Decision.

This Decision is exempt from charges pursuant to Article 8, item 1, of the Regulation on Administrative Charges ("People's Bulletin", No. 40/92).

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Instruction on legal remedy:

An appeal against this Decision may be lodged with the Appeals Commission in Administrative Procedure of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Zagreb, Avenija Vukovar 33, 15 days upon receipt of the Decision. The Appeal shall be submitted in writing, directly or by registered mail, via the Vrbovsko Police Station, with tax stamp duties of 200 HRD, under No. 3 of the Regulation on Administrative Charges.

Co.:

1. CAREVIĆ Ljubica

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2. Vrbovsko Police Station - SJS
3. Local Records Office

COMMANDER OF THE
POLICE STATION:
sgd. Robert Jurašić

Delivered on September 30th, 1992

/...

REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
POLICE HEADQUARTERS, KARLOVAC
POLICE STATION, VRBOVSKO
No. 511-05-60/2-1-UPI# 123 /92
Vrbovsko, 9th July 1992

With reference to the ex officio deletion of the permanent residence of Carević Simo, subject to Article 13 para 3 of the Law on Registration of the Domicile and Permanent Residence of Citizens ("People's Bulletin", No. 53/91.), Article 141 of the Law on General Administrative Procedure ("Official Gazette" No. 47/86) and Article 1 of the Law on the Application of the Law on General Administrative Procedure in the Republic of Croatia ("People's Bulletin," No. 53/91), the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Police Headquarters Karlovac, Police Station Vrbovsko, hereby brings the following

D E C I S I O N

1. on the DELETION of CAREVIĆ Simo, born on September 21st, 1977, from the register of permanent residents of Vrbovsko, Srpske Moravice, Dokmanovići bb.

2. on the ANNULMENT of identity card, Registration No. _____ issued by the _____.

3. Appeal shall not stay enforcement.

/...

R a t i o n a l e

Carević Simo, father's name Carević Nedeljko, born on September 2st, 1977, in Ogulin, registered in Vrbovsko as his permanent place of residence since birth, at the address : Srpske Moravice, Dokmanovići 1c.

Inspection of the Register of Residents, showed that the above-mentioned was still registered at the said address.

In connection with Article 12, para 3 of the Law on the Domicile and Permanent Residence of Citizens, the Police Headquarters Karlovac, Police Station Vrbovsko, initiated an official procedure for establishing the authenticity of residence data at the above address.

Inspection in the field established that Carević Simodoes not reside in Srpske Moravice, Dokmanovići 1c, which he left for Serbia - Belgrade, in September 1991.

Since Article 13, para 3 of the Law on the Domicile and Permanent Residence of Citizens and Article 10 of the Law on Identification Card ("People's Bulletin", No. 53/91), stipulate that residence data must be accurate and true, and as the term "residence" is understood to mean the place where one permanently resides, the aforesaid shows that Carević Simo does not permanently reside at Srpske Moravice, Dokmanovići 1c, warranting the above decision.

Pursuant to Article 231. of the Law on General Administrative Procedure ("Official Gazette No. 47/86) and Article 1 on the Application of the Law on General Administrative Procedure in the Republic of Croatia ("People's Bulletin", No. 53/91), appeal shall not stay enforcement of the said Decision.

This Decision is exempt from charges pursuant to Article 8, item 1, of the Regulation on Administrative Charges ("People's Bulletin", No. 40/92).

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Instruction on legal remedy:

An appeal against this Decision may be lodged with the Appeals Commission in Administrative Procedure of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Zagreb, Avenija Vukovar 33, 15 days upon receipt of the Decision. The Appeal shall be submitted in writing, directly or by registered mail, via the Vrbovsko Police Station, with tax stamp duties of 200 HRD, under No. 3 of the Regulation on Administrative Charges.

Co.:

1. CAREVIĆ SIMO c/o

   Carević Ljubica
2. Vrbovsko Police Station - SJS
3. Local Records Office

COMMANDER OF THE
POLICE STATION:
sgd. Robert Jurašić

Delivered on September 30th, 1992

/...

REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
POLICE HEADQUARTERS, KARLOVAC
POLICE STATION, VRBOVSKO
No. 511-05-60/2-1-UPI# 122 /92
Vrbovsko, 9th July 1992

With reference to the ex officio deletion of the permanent residence of Carević Nikola, subject to Article 13 para 3 of the Law on Registration of the Domicile and Permanent Residence of Citizens ("People's Bulletin", No. 53/91.), Article 141 of the Law on General Administrative Procedure ("Official Gazette" No. 47/86) and Article 1 of the Law on the Application of the Law on General Administrative Procedure in the Republic of Croatia ("People's Bulletin," No. 53/91), the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Police Headquarters Karlovac, Police Station Vrbovsko, hereby brings the following

D E C I S I O N

1. on the DELETION of CAREVIĆ Nikola, born on September 23rd, 1975, from the register of permanent residents of Vrbovsko, Srpske Moravice, Dokmanovići 1c.

2. on the ANNULMENT of identity card, Registration No. _____ issued by the _____.

3. Appeal shall not stay enforcement.

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R a t i o n a l e

Carević Nikola, father's name Carević Nedeljko, born on September 23rd, 1975, in Ogulin, registered in Vrbovsko as his permanent place of residence since birth, at the address : Srpske Moravice, Dokmanovići 1c.

Inspection of the Register of Residents, showed that the above-mentioned was still registered at the said address.

In connection with Article 12, para 3 of the Law on the Domicile and Permanent Residence of Citizens, the Police Headquarters Karlovac, Police Station Vrbovsko, initiated an official procedure for establishing the authenticity of residence data at the above address.

Inspection in the field established that Carević Nikola does not reside in Srpske Moravice, Dokmanovići 1c, which he left for Serbia - Belgrade, in September 1991.

Since Article 13, para 3 of the Law on the Domicile and Permanent Residence of Citizens and Article 10 of the Law on Identification Card ("People's Bulletin", No. 53/91), stipulate that residence data must be accurate and true, and as the term "residence" is understood to mean the place where one permanently resides, the aforesaid shows that Carević Nikola does not permanently reside at Srpske Moravice, Dokmanovići 1c, warranting the above decision.

Pursuant to Article 231. of the Law on General Administrative Procedure ("Official Gazette No. 47/86) and Article 1 on the Application of the Law on General Administrative Procedure in the Republic of Croatia ("People's Bulletin", No. 53/91), appeal shall not stay enforcement of the said Decision.

This Decision is exempt from charges pursuant to Article 8, item 1, of the Regulation on Administrative Charges ("People's Bulletin", No. 40/92).

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Instruction on legal remedy:

An appeal against this Decision may be lodged with the Appeals Commission in Administrative Procedure of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Zagreb, Avenija Vukovar 33, 15 days upon receipt of the Decision. The Appeal shall be submitted in writing, directly or by registered mail, via the Vrbovsko Police Station, with tax stamp duties of 200 HRD, under No. 3 of the Regulation on Administrative Charges.

Co.:

1. CAREVIĆ Nikola, c/o Carević Ljubica

2. Vrbovsko Police Station - SJS
3. Local Records Office

COMMANDER OF THE POLICE STATION:

sgd. Robert Jurašić

Delivered on September 30th, 1992

/...

LJUBICA CAREVIĆ
DOKMANOVIĆI 1 C
Srpske Moravice

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY
SRPSKE MORAVICE

Enclosed is my appeal to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Croatia and a copy of my letter to the Vice-president Milan Djukić for his information.

I talked to the EC Monitoring Mission representatives on October 5,1992.

Respectfully,

Ljubica Carević

/...

CAREVIC LJUBICA
Dokmanovici 1 c.
SRPSKE MORAVICE 47 323

Srpske Moravice, October 5,1992

MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Administrative Procedure Commission of Appeals
Avenija Vukovar 33
ZAGREB

Pursuant to Decisions on the deletion from the register of permanent residents, No.511-050-60/2-1-UPI# 46/92;511-050-60/2-1-UPI# 122/92, 511-050-60/2-1 UPI # 123/92 and 511-05-60/2-1 UPI # 76/92, issued by the Police Station in Vrbovsko I hereby lodge an

APPEAL

against these decisions which I consider totally legally unfounded. The facts have not been accurately established and I believe that these decisions were made in pursuit of personal and higher political objectives since I am a disabled retiree of the Secretariat of Internal Affairs of Vrbovsko and my husband has been fired from the Administration of the Commune of Vrbovsko where he was an official, and we are both Serbs by nationality. The decisions were not served on time but were, at my insistence, written on September 30, 1992,which took two hours, from 9 to 11 a.m. I believe that this measure was deliberately designed to deprive me and my family of our civil rights,i.e. drive us away from our own home and place of residence. I consider this decision an act of coercion, a statutorily enforced act of ethnic cleansing, because in all the democratic countries of the world every citizen has the right to chose the place of his education and to be absent from his place of residence at his own discretion. This decision is in contravention of the basic civil and human right of move-

/...

ment and freedom of citizens and nationals. I hope that this gross error will be adequately redressed.

Ljubica Carevic

Copies to:
1. Vice-president Milan Djukic
2.EC Monitoring Mission via the Srpske Moravice
Local Community Office

/...

Mr.Vice-president,

I am addressing you as a national of the Republic of Croatia with the request to review my case (involving a problem shared by many in the area of our local community).

My name is Ljubica Carević, I am a disabled retiree of the Secretariat of Internal Affairs of Vrbovsko, born on March 15,1954 in Rijeka, resident of Srpske Moravice, address: Dokmanovici 1 c., mother of two children (aged 15 and 17), wife of a fired official of the Commune of Vrbovsko, Serb by nationality. I am the owner of a family home built in 1979 and a bit over 3 hectares of land and forest.

When this war broke out I enroled my children at school in Belgrade because we had started to receive anonymous phone calls, and before that anonymous letters as well, not only addressed to us but also to the then Committee of the League of Communists and the Secretariat of Internal Affairs alleging that I and my husband were " unsuitable". In addition, the daily commuting to the school in Ogulin at a time of war was dangerous and threatened the lives and security of my children. These circumstances forced us to decide to move our children to temporarily reside and go to school in another place , which I believe to be the right and duty of parents.

However, the consequence of that decision was that my husband Nedeljko was declared politically responsible and "unsuitable"and was subsequently relieved of his duties as Director of Public Revenues and fired from the Administration of the Commune of Vrbovsko. Having thus been thrown out, in January 1992, my husband joined me and the children and tried to resolve our existential problems and needs in Belgrade . On April 21,1992 I applied for passports for me and the children and the Ministry of the Interior would not take an application for my husband saying that he had to apply in person.We were not issued passports. The explanation was ,first, that they were out of blank passport forms and later

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that the procedure required two to three months.In the same period (May 1992) I was summoned to the Ministry of the Interior for an informative talk, where they seized my Yugoslav passport and tried to have me confess to some ostensible political and anti-state activities of my husband. As nothing of the kind exists I could not give them a reply in the affirmative. After some twenty days,at my intervention, they returned to me my old passport.

In the meanwhile the procedure was initiated for the eviction of my father-in-law, Simeon Carević, address Žrtava fašizma No.5., a retired railway worker; he and my family - I myself and my sons Nikola, born in 1975 and Sima born in 1977 were served with decisions on our deletion from the register of residents of the Commune of Vrbovsko only on September 30,1992 when we tried to apply for a passport for my father-in-law and inquired after the status of our previously submitted applications.

I consider these decisions to be forced eviction acts, pressures on my family, and as depriving us of our civil and human rights by prohibiting our return, and an assault on our personal security and property , as there can be no other perception of the ultimate aim of this act. I feel endangered and as a second class citizen. I should like to mention that citizens from this Commune have been working abroad for many years without their names being struck from the residents' register, whereas my name and the the names of the rest of my family were deleted just because we are Serbs by nationality.

Mr. Vice-president, I hope that as the official representative of the Serbs you will take my problem into consideration and solve it in a satisfactory way because I and my family were born here, made a honest living here and do not want to be forcibly driven out from our home and place of residence and leave our elderly parents and relatives, our graves and give away our property; neither do we want to be second classs citizens who are prohibited to work being " unsuitable" according to the unwritten law of the present state. Our human and civil rights are being violated and we are

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being divested of them by force ostensibly according to some legal and democratic norms.

I have also informed the EC Monitoring Mission of this problem. As I have not been able to exercise my civil right and obtain a passport and move where I want to freely, I have to leave my place of residence, I hope temporarily, and my own home, so as not to be separated from my family as my Yugoslav passport expires on October 8,1992. I am leaving for Belgrade so please inform me of the outcome at the following address: Kosanović MIhajlo, c/o Carević, Slobodana Penezića 15/II/3 Str., 11000 Beograd.

Respectfully yours,

Ljubica Carević